

Subdivisions built by Edmund Bennett and designed by Keyes, Lethbridge & Condon in Montgomery County, Maryland

MIHP#s

New Mark Commons M: 26-40

Carderock Springs M: 29-59

Kenwood Park M: 35-156

Potomac Overlook M: 35-157

Flint Hill M: 35-158

Montgomery County, MD

Constructed between 1956 and 1973

Private access

Spanning three decades, the collaboration between home builder Edmund J. Bennett and architects Keyes, Lethbridge & Condon (hereafter referred to as KLC) was consecrated by an award of honor jointly conferred by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) in 1961 for "excellence in their cooperative efforts to create better homes and communities for Americans."¹ This award was only in its second year; its first recipients had been Eichler Homes teaming with Anshen & Allen and Jones & Emmons. In the past few years, these Southern California partnerships have received a considerable amount of scholarly and popular attention. Although he built a much smaller number of homes, Edmund Bennett can be considered as the "Eichler of the East" and his output deserves the same type of scrutiny. Indeed the Bennett/KLC collaboration received sustained local and national attention. In addition to extensive and very positive coverage on the part of the home building, architecture, and shelter press, the subdivisions it produced were popular among architecture students and foreign delegations visiting Washington.²

¹ "AIA-NAHB cites architect-builder team," *House and Home* (April 1961), 184.

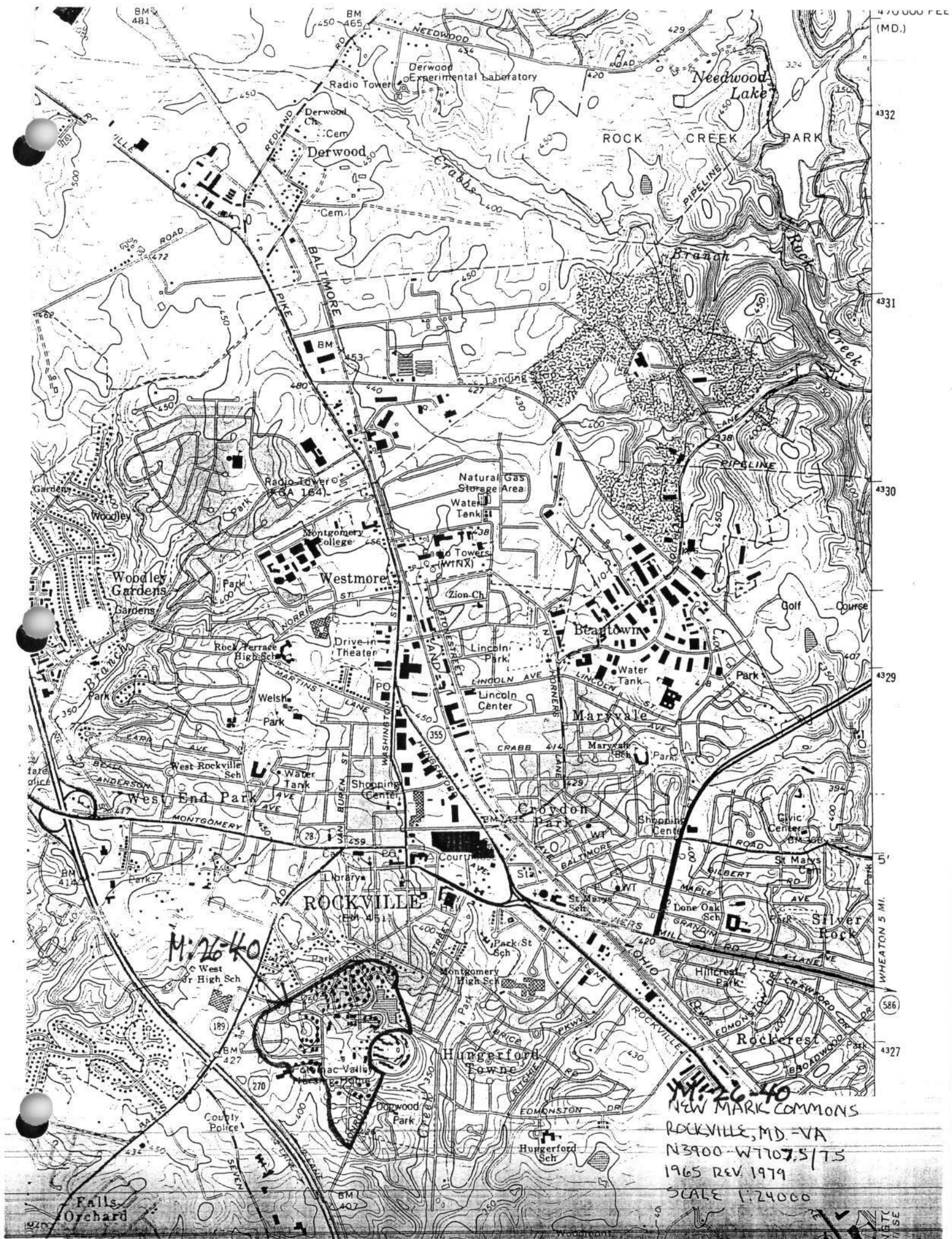
² In 1960, a delegation of seventy Swedish architects visited Washington, at the time of a Stockholm

Bennett/KLC homes belong to a second generation of modernist tract houses in American suburbia: as needs of World War II veterans had been fulfilled and incomes were rising, these were larger, had more amenities, and cost considerable more than tract houses built in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Meeting a specific demand, readily identifiable but presenting many variations, Bennett/KLC homes were not inexpensive. However, designed to preserve natural scenery, and avoid waste of space and materials, they were reasonably priced for the quality of community and family life they procured. They were built solidly and have aged well, with the proper maintenance.

The Bennett/KLC homes and subdivisions present one of the most extensive experiments in "situated modernism" in the United States, an experiment which the Washington, D.C. suburbs, with their wooded, steeply sloped lots nestled in the stream valley system of tributaries of the Potomac River, helped nurture. This was a tight and long-lasting collaboration that allowed for the establishment of a consistent syntax for planning and design. Edmund Bennett did not "invent" a new type of landscape or house. He took best advantage of the experience acquired by other home builders who started their businesses in the late 1940s and improved upon models which Donald Lethbridge and Arthur Keyes had devised for two Northern Virginia builders.

"SEE FRR Mont 23 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION."

exhibition at the AIA headquarters, were taken to visit Flint Hill (see Frederic Gutheim, "Stockholm Architectural Exhibit Offers Lessons to Area Planners," *Washington Post*, October 21, 1960, B3. See also *Washington Post*, October 13, 1962, D13, showing South African representatives of the International Union of Building Societies and Savings Association visiting Flint Hill, guided by Thornton W. Owen, chairman of the board of the Perpetual Building Association. According to a display ad carrying the title "On their recent trip here, what's the first thing Australia's leading builders wanted to see? The monuments? In a way, Edmund J. Bennett's Carderock Springs," published in the *Washington Post*, September 4, 1965, E3, "Edmund J. Bennett hosted leading home builders from Dusseldorf, Brussels and London." See *Washington Post*, November 10, 1962, D3 showing architect Arnold Kronstadt and his American University class in home construction at Carderock Springs and *Washington Post*, March 9, 1963, D7 showing Donald Lethbridge conducting a tour of Carderock Springs for a University of Virginia class in urban design.



M:26-40

M:26-40
NEW MARK COMMONS
ROCKVILLE, MD - VA
N3900-W7707.5/7.5
1965 REV 1979
SCALE 1:24000



New mark Commons, Rockville
Montgomery County, MD

M:26-40

Isabelle Gournay
October 2003

Maryland Historic Trust

Lake, new mark lakeside villas, bridge and
path viewed from new mark
Esplanade

#1



M 126-40

new mark commons, Rockville
Montgomery County, MD

Isabelle Gournay
October 2003

Maryland Historic Trust

Lake New mark, lakeside villas viewed
from New Mark Esplanade

#2



M:26-40

New mark Commons, Rockville
Montgomery County, MD

Isabelle Gournay

January 2004

Maryland Historic Trust

Lakeside Villas, exterior view
(Lido or Fontana)

DEC03 P563
65 0211 N5NN22048

#3



New Mark Commons, Rockville
Montgomery County, MD

M:24-40

Isabelle Gournay
October 2003

Maryland Historic Trust

Entrance "totem", Leonard Rennie Sculptor,
erected 1967

#45



New Mark Commons, Rockville
Montgomery County, MD

M' 26-40

Isabelle Gournay
October 2003

Maryland Historic Trust

Path near Monroe Street

#5

50



New mark Commons, Rockville
Montgomery County, MD

M:26-40

Isabella Gournay
October 2003

Maryland Historic Trust

Paved pedestrian path, town house section
With original lamp post showing
fenced townhouse backyard

#6



New Mark Commons, Rockville
Montgomery County, MD

M: 26-40

Isabelle Goumay
October 2003

Maryland Historic Trust

Paved pedestrian path, townhouse section with
original lamp post, showing
townhouse backyard

#7



M:26-40

8 Lakeside Overlook
New Mark Commons, Rockville
Montgomery County, MD

Isabelle Gournay
January 2004

Maryland Historic Trust

Mark 70-44, exterior view

6



M:26-40

10 Lakeside Overlook
new mark Commons, Rockville
Montgomery County, MD

Isabelle Gournay

January 2004

Maryland Historic Trust

Mark 70-Mu , exterior view

#9



M:26-40

864-866-870 New Mark commons, Rockville
Montgomery County, MD

Isabelle Gournay

October 2003

Maryland Historic Trust

townhouse grouping, showing fence

#10



860-870 New mark Esplanade
New Mark Commons, Rockville
Montgomery County, MD

M: 26-40

Isabelle Gournay
January 2004

Maryland Historic Trust

Court for Townhouses # 860-870 new mark
Esplanade. (with long bench)

#11



705 New mark Esplanade
New mark Commons, Rockville
Montgomery County, MD

M: 26-40

Isabelle Gournay
January 2004

Maryland Historic Trust

Nantucket. Model Home, front facade, 1967

#12



M.26-40

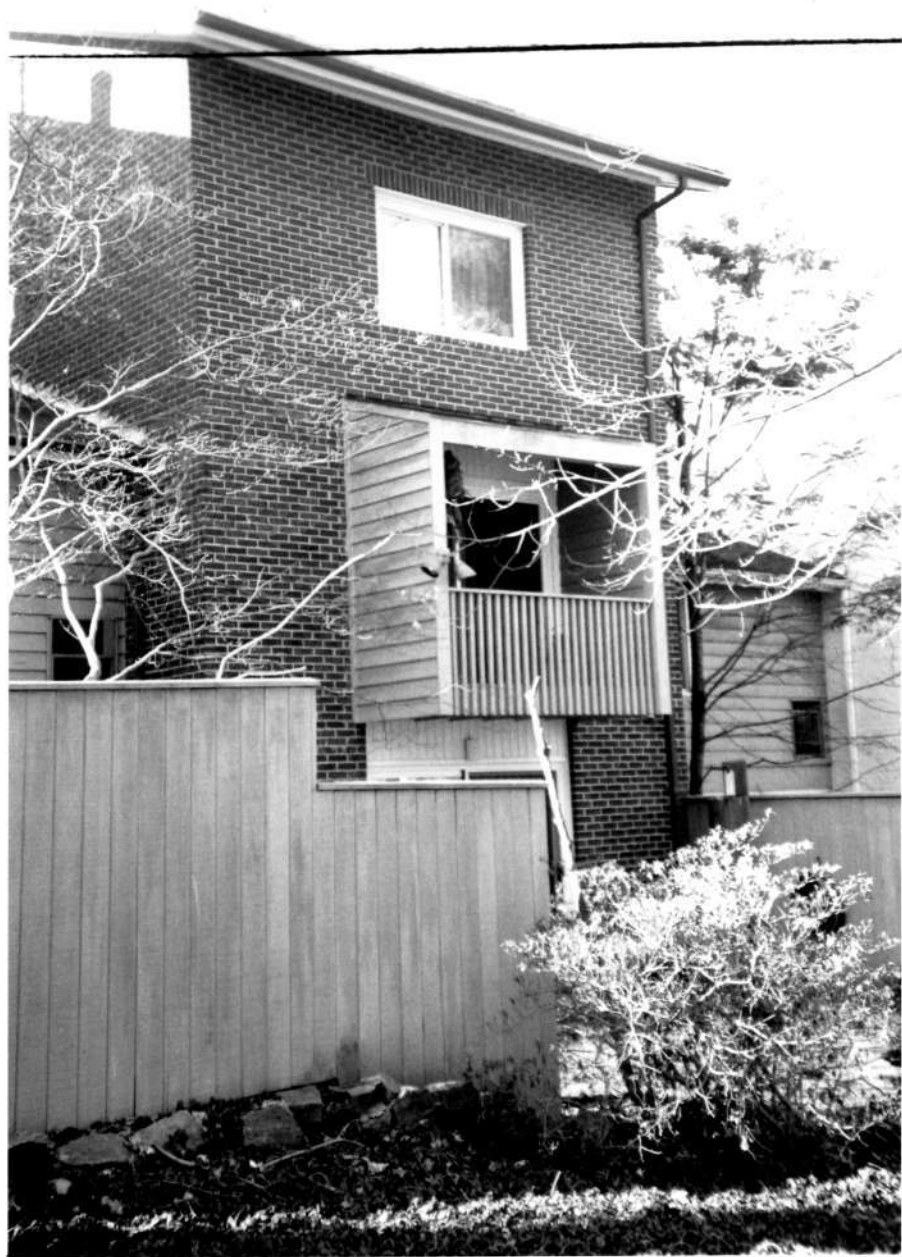
703 New mark Esplanade
New mark Commons, Rockville
Montgomery County, MD

Isabelle Gournay
January 2004

Maryland Historic Trust

Strurbridge model home, front facade

#13



M:26-40

504 New Mark Esplanade
New Mark Commons, Rockville
Montgomery County, MD

Isabelle Gournay
January 2004

Maryland Historic Trust

Townhouse (Windamere model), back elevation
1968
showing projecting balcony

#14



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501 New Mark Esplanade
New Mark Commons, Rockville
Montgomery County, MD

Isabelle Gournay
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Maryland Historic Trust

Rathbone House (Mark 70-DH model), view of
living room

#15



M:26-40

501 New Mark Esplanade
New Mark Commons, Rockville
Montgomery County, MD

Isabelle Gournay
January 2004

Maryland Historic Trust

Rathbone House (Mark 70-DH model), view of
stairhall from foyer

#16



501 New Mark Esplanade
New Mark Commons, Rockville
Montgomery County, MD

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Isabelle Gournay

January 2004

Maryland Historic Trust

Rathbone House (Mark 70-DH model), front facade

#17



216 and 218 new mark Esplanade

M: 26-40

New Mark Commons, Rockville

Montgomery County, MD

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Maryland Historic Trust

Pathway between 216 and 218 new mark
Esplanade

#18



M-26-40

210-220 New Mark Esplanade
New Mark Commons, Rockville
Montgomery County, MD

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Court for Townhouses 210-220 New Mark Esplanade

#19



M:26-40

Four Seasons Pool and Club

New Marks Commons, Rockville

Montgomery County, MD

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Maryland Historic Trust

exterior view

#20



M:26-40

Four Seasons Pool
New Mark Commons, Rockville
Montgomery County, MD

Isabelle Gournay
January 2004

Maryland Historic Trust

Pool fence with Four Seasons Club in the
background

#216



17 Farsta Court
New Mark Commons, Rockville
Montgomery County, MD

M: 26-40

Isabelle Gournay
January 2004

Maryland Historic Trust

exterior view

H22



M:26-40

Farsta Court

New Mark Commons, Rockville
Montgomery County, MD

Isabelle Gournay

January 2004

Maryland Historic Trust

View of Farsta Court

#23



M: 26-40

16 Watchwater Way
New Mark Commons, Rockville
Montgomery County, MD

DEC03 P563
65 0211 N-5 N N 2 20 50

Isabelle Gournay
January 2004

Maryland Historic Trust

Front facade, ^{built} 1969

#24



Radburn Court
New Mark Commons, Rockville
Montgomery County, MD

M:26-40

Isabelle Gournay
January 2004

Maryland Historic Trust

Radburn Court with Mark 70 Two-story
model home in the middle

#25
#57